AFB/B.47-48/6
24 November 2026

Adaptation Fund Board

REQUEST FOR NO-COST EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: BANQUE OUEST AFRICAINE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT (NIGER)

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board), during the intersessional period between its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth Board meetings, approved a five-year project "Enhancing Resilience of Agriculture to Climate Change to Support Food Security in Niger, through Modern Irrigation Techniques", submitted by the Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD), for a total amount of US$ 9,911,000 (Decision B.27-28/16).

2. The project aims to enhance agricultural resilience and food security in Niger through modern irrigation techniques. Its specific objectives are to: (i) strengthen stakeholders' capacities in climate-resilient irrigation systems and disseminate lessons learned; (ii) support efficient technologies for sustainable water resources management, soil conservation in irrigated areas and reduced irrigation pumping energy costs; and (iii) diversify livelihoods to improve farmers' incomes. The project comprises three components: (i) enhancing stakeholders' technical and institutional capacities and disseminating lessons learned; (ii) strengthening and developing irrigated areas; and (iii) supporting the conservation of agricultural products and diversification of livelihoods of target populations.

3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and BOAD on 4 July 2016, and the project started implementation on 17 March 2020.

4. To date, three project performance reports (PPRs) were cleared by the secretariat and a total project funding for an amount of US$ 5,779,000, including the project fees, has been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 58% of the approved grant.

5. On 14 March 2025, BOAD was granted a first eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 17 March 2025 to 17 September 2026 (Decision B.43-44/18). BOAD attributes the implementation delays to the COVID-19 health crisis, the country's socio-political crisis and an unsuccessful bidding process.

6. On 3 November 2026, BOAD submitted a second request for an eighteen-month no-cost extension request for the project completion date, from 17 September 2026 to 17 March 2028 (see Annex I), to complete the remaining field activities under Components 2 and 3, particularly the development and supervision of irrigated perimeters.

7. BOAD indicates that the extension would enable: (i) the finalization of the tendering process and selection of contractors; (ii) the implementation and supervision of development works; and (iii) the continuation of capacity-building activities for farmers and implementation of environmental and social safeguard measures. BOAD confirms that no additional funds are required and that the originally approved project scope and framework will remain unchanged.

Secretariat's review of the request

8. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by BOAD, the Secretariat is of the view that this eighteen-month extension request is justified. The reasons presented by BOAD support the need for additional time to complete outstanding procurement, irrigation development and supervision, farmer capacity-building and environmental and social safeguard activities. BOAD reports progress in preparatory activities but indicates that field activities under Components 2 and 3 remain incomplete.

9. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that the Designated Authority has been notified,

in accordance with the amended Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as specified in Annex I.

Recommendation

10. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for a second eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 17 September 2026 to 17 March 2028 for the project “Enhancing Resilience of Agriculture to Climate Change to Support Food Security in Niger, through Modern Irrigation Techniques”, as requested by BOAD.

Annex I: Request for an extension of the project completion date

ANNEXE I: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCRETE ADAPTATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME

Request for extension of project/programme completion date

Implementing Entity Name : Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD)			
AF Project/programme ID : NER/RIE/Food/2012/1/PC			
Project/programme Title : Enhancing Resilience of Agriculture to Climate Change to Support Food Security in Niger, through Modern Irrigation Techniques			
Country : Niger			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	05 July 2016		
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	17 September 2026	**Proposed Revised Completion** (date) :	17 march 2028

Reasons/justifications for the extension of project/programme completion :

Climate variability is a serious problem for Niger. The country often faces rainfall deficits that hurt crop production and push many rural families into food insecurity. Agriculture in Niger depends heavily on rain and on access to water, which is why irrigation is so important for building resilience against climate change.

The project covers the development of 1,000 ha of market gardening perimeters in units of 1 to 5 ha. These perimeters are equipped with drip irrigation kits (600 ha) or Californian system (400 ha), combined with solar photovoltaic kits to power the irrigation systems. The project also provides infrastructure to process and sell agricultural products, trains beneficiary communities and protects the environment. The main beneficiaries are producers groups, especially women and young people, as well as individual producers. Of the 1,000 ha planned, 900 ha go to group producers and 100 ha to individual producers.

Specific objectives :

1. Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders on resilient irrigation systems to climate change and disseminate lessons learned during the project execution ;
2. Support the development of efficient technologies for sustainable management of water resources, conserve soil of irrigated areas and reduce energy costs associated with pumping of irrigation water;
3. Support the diversification of livelihoods to improve the incomes of farmers. The project is articulated around the following components: (i) Enhancing stakeholders' technical and institutional capacities and dissemination of lessons learned during the project execution; (ii) Confortation and development of irrigated areas; and (iii) Support to the conservation of agricultural products and diversification of livelihoods of target populations.

Considering the various factors that have hampered the implementation of the project, causing a serious delay, including the health crisis linked to Covid-19, the socio-political crisis experienced by the country, and the unsuccessful bid process, an initial extension has been granted by the Adaptation Fund for eighteen (18)-months (Decision B.43-44/18), from 17 March 2025 to 17 September 2026. Ever since, good progress has been made: the baseline study was completed, the sites to be developed were identified, the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Pest and Pesticide Management Plan (PPMP) were updated, training sessions on climate change adaptation took place, the launching of procurement processes for the companies that will carry out the development works across the five intervention regions has been launched. As of 31 December 2025, the overall physical implementation rate is at 42%, while the financial execution rate, including commitments, is at 33%. Following a thorough analysis of the updated execution plan, a second extension is

necessary to allow the completion the field activities within Components 2 and 3 (development and supervision of irrigated perimeters).

Noting that according to Adaptation Fund policies « *An implementing entity may request for a project/programme extension beyond the original completion date for up to 18 months for a concrete adaptation project/programme if (i) no additional funds are required; (ii) the project/programme's originally approved scope will not change; and (iii) the entity provides reasons and justifications for the extension*», BOAD and the Executing Entity (EE) consider that the justifications provided above are solid and reasonable. No extra money is being requested, and the project scope remains exactly as approved.

The second 18-month no-cost extension (from 17 September 2026 to 17 march 2028) will allow the completion of the following activities:

i) finalizing the tendering process and selecting the contractors;
ii) the actual implementation and supervision of development works; and
iii) the continuation of capacity-building activities for farmers, implementation of environmental and social safeguard measures

No additional funds are required and there will be no change in the project framework.

Implementing Entity certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with Adaptation Fund policies and procedures, has been agreed by participating executing entities, and the designated authority (DA) has been notified.
Mr. Moubarak MOUKAILA, Director of the Financing Sustainable Development Department **Name & Signature**
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